

# THE Library Journal



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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|                                                             |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|
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| " 5 " 10,000 " 22,000 " 8.50                                |  |
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|                                                                             |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
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|                                                              |                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
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|                                                                                                                      |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
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32 HAWLEY STREET, BOSTON, or P. O. BOX 260,

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Index to accession book. (3: 108.) 50c. each.

**Shelf-list Sheets.** (1: 365.) 50c. per 100, \$4.50 per 1000.

Binder for same, half goat (best), 90c.; cloth, 60c.

**Economy Book Supports.** (3: 88, 123, 316.) Most cheap and efficient. From 20c. to 30c. each, according to finish. To libraries, per 100, 25 per cent. discount.

**Massy Book Support.** (3: 35, 314.) Single, 15c.; per 10, \$1.25; per 100, \$10.00; per 1,000, \$96.00. Cherry wood, 50c. per 100 extra; adjustable thumb-screw, \$2.00 per 100 extra. Cherry, with thumb-screw (best), \$12.50 per 100; \$120.00 per 1,000.

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**Danner's Revolving Book-cases.** (1: 414; 3: 126, 316.) Twenty or more styles, for lawyers, public offices, libraries, students, etc., to hold from 20 to 700 volumes: prices from \$6.00 to \$32.00. Send for special illustrated circular.

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**Adhesive Paper** for mending torn leaves, etc. (3: 135.) Sheet 50x75 cm., 30c.; package, 20 sheets, 21x8 cm., 60c.

**Spit Card.** (3: 223.) Large letters on card, 5c. each.

**Library Shelf-mark Letters,** double gummed. Three sizes, at 5c., 10c., and 20c. per 100; boxed by 200, 100, and 50, at 10c. per box.

**Pamphlet Cases,** with dust-tight cover, two sizes, O and D, each 40c.

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## ON THE LONGEVITY OF LIBRARIANS.\*

BY CORNELIUS WALFORD, F. S. S., BARRISTER-AT-LAW, LONDON.

I AM not aware that any one has yet taken the trouble to put on record any special notes upon the duration of the lives of a class of men to whom all literary and scientific workers are more or less indebted for aid, and not unfrequently for counsel, in their several pursuits. There are tables innumerable of the ages of deceased and even living authors, artists, sculptors, editors, and scientists, and other brain-workers; but of librarians, as a class, complete silence reigns, in England at least. Of course many, or perhaps most, librarians are also authors; and in this capacity they come in for enumeration, as an undefined section of a very extended class.

It seems to me quite probable that there may be a well-defined law of mortality applicable to each specific class of brain-workers; altho it must be admitted as also highly probable that physical and other conditions may be frequently associated with certain of such occupations, and these must lend a qualifying force.

Dr. W. A. Guy, M. B., F. R. S., some years since, entered upon an enquiry into the relative longevity of the three leading professional classes, viz.: the clergy, medical practitioners, and lawyers. The result came out as follows:

|                                   | <i>Age at death.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lawyers (Judges, &c.),            | 67 years.            |
| Clergy (Archbishops and Bishops), | 70 $\frac{1}{4}$ "   |
| Medical men (Baronets, &c.),      | 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ "   |

But these figures could not apply to *all* the members of the profession in either case. The only men observed upon were

those who had attained a considerable degree of eminence; and as this eminence is not usually attained until men are past the middle or prime of life, it is seen that the selection in such case is itself limited to those who, by reason of greater powers of physical endurance, or by the inspiring influence of early success, have outlived vast numbers who originally entered upon the race, but who succumbed in the struggle at various stages. Further investigations by the same learned author have shown that out of each of the classes named may be founded sub-divisions presenting a different rate of mortality from that of the chief or more typical group. For instance, out of what may be termed the working clergy, it was found there were two well-defined sub-classes: 1. Clergy in towns and cities, with an average duration of life of 63 $\frac{3}{4}$  years. 2. Clergy in rural districts, with an average duration of just under 66 years.

There is a theory, and perhaps it is only a theory, that the physically weaker members of families are often selected by their parents, guardians and medical advisers for professional pursuits; while the more hale and hearty members go into the army, the navy, the civil service, into commerce, or become country squires. If this be so in reality, the professional classes would seem to be handicapped at starting—handicapped as it were by nature, or by an involuntary selection made against

\* Read at a monthly meeting of the L. A. U. K.

them! But in the end a certain undefined percentage come out as winners in the race of longevity—for no section of the community, not even the landed gentry, outlive the prominent members of the three great learned professions.

It is certain, however, that quietude of life, and contentment, do very frequently outweigh all other advantages, physical or otherwise. Annuitants are proverbially a long-lived race; but here again, very frequently, the element of human selection comes in. Persons who think they will live a long time, or belong, perchance, to a long-lived family, sink their money in life annuities; while those who feel the cares and anxieties of their daily life and occupation pressing upon them, insure their lives, and die early! In the table of centenarians and other persons of extreme old age, it is to be observed that the longest-livers are neither the professional classes nor annuitants. They are farmers and laborers chiefly, who have gone through many of the hardships and much of the drudgery of life; but simple, free contentment, and nature's fresh air in abundance, have done for them what no mere artificial luxury can do for any others. Old Henry Jenkins, who died at Ellerton-upon-Swale (York), at the age of 169, "begged up and down" in his later years. Thomas Parr, who died at Winnington, Shropshire, aged 152, had lived a very hard life. I could give many other instances, for I have collected many hundreds of cases of centenarians, some considerable proportion of them *bona-fide*—Mr. Thoms notwithstanding.

The preceding remarks are to be regarded as so far introductory (while I hope of some value in themselves) that their real design is to prepare the mind for the considerations which must be kept more or less in order in reasoning from the known up to the un-

known, which is the only mode of treatment available in the present instance.

If any one class of persons more than another may be supposed instinctively to select any one occupation rather than another, it may fairly be inferred that those of enfeebled physique will adopt the literary profession. It seems so especially adapted to their position and circumstances. They cannot enter into the competition of life with the strong; they naturally fall back upon the pleasures of literature, and so, in the luxury of mental enjoyment, gain compensation for the deprivation of physical advantages. Familiarity with the writings of others, combined with a studious habit, soon converts some proportion of such into authors themselves. Unquestionably many of our most famed authors, from Charlotte Brontë in females, to De Quincey in males, have been of fragile stature. Indeed it has come to be almost a proverb that great minds inhabit small bodies. Was it not the poet Crabbe who exclaimed:

Genius! thou gift of Heaven! thou light divine!  
Amid what dangers art thou doom'd to shine!  
Oft will the body's weakness check thy force,  
Oft damp thy vigour, and impede thy course;  
And trembling nerves compel thee to restrain  
Thy noble efforts to contend with pain;  
Or want (sad guest!) will in thy presence come  
And breathe around her melancholy gloom;  
To life's low cares will thy proud thought confine,  
And make her sufferings—her impatience—thine!

But I will not emulate Madden, who, in his "Infirmities of genius, illustrated by reference to anomalies in literary character," &c. (2 vols., 1833), rang out, in connection with authorship, all the dismal changes, from harmless imbecility to downright, stark madness, with a facility of illustration terrible to contemplate. I believe, with the Rev. Robert Aris Wilmott ("Pleasures, objects, and advantages of literature," 1851—a charming little volume), that the literary life has asso-

ciated with it never-failing charms; that it teaches contentment; that it harmonizes with frugality; that it consoles even mental distress; and so even fortifies and strengthens the body, whose inherent weakness led to the first inception of literature as an occupation. But I must also admit that its very charms have caused its ranks to be greatly over-crowded, looking upon it here in the light of a vocation by which to gain an income; and I will freely add that he whose lot is to be most envied is the man who can combine literature with the occupation of his every-day life, and so enjoy the elevation of authorship without the risk of any personal contact with its depressing influences and incidents!

Now, the professional librarian seems to me to stand nearer to the position last indicated than any other person I can imagine. His lifetime is to be with books—perchance more with their outside titles and aspects than with their interiors, taken as a whole. But this will depend very much upon the position in which good fortune or good judgment shall have placed him. The snug librarianship to a nobleman; the luxury of a refined home; the association with a man of enlarged tastes, and the means of following them out; the change from the town-house to the country-mansion; a reliance upon the bounty of his chief in his declining years, and the unlimited opportunity of following out his own pet branches of study, seem to me to embody advantages of the highest order, with perhaps some drawbacks on the score of want of personal liberty, and always the chance of an unsympathizing or uncongenial patron succeeding to the inheritance.

The position of librarian to a public library—too frequently over-worked and under-paid, hampered, perhaps, by a committee who really know nothing, but fancy they know everything concerning

books, may be anything but a sinecure.\*

But even here there is the consciousness of doing good, and associations frequently spring up between cultivated readers and librarians who are appreciative of their particular requirements and vanities, which afford some compensation for the other disagreeables. The efficient management of a public lending library is now becoming something of a science, to the development of which our Library Association is, I am glad to know, rendering efficient aid. The social status of public librarians will advance with the new and increasing duties cast upon them, and the activity of their lives, as necessitated by their duties, will offer some compensation in point of longevity as against the easier and more sedentary lives of the private librarians. The class most to be envied are, perhaps, the librarians to scientific and other learned societies and literary clubs. Here the emolument is usually

\*Evidence of Dr. J. E. Gray, before a Commission of the House of Commons, 1849, on the British Librarians.

"I consider a Retiring Pension, when from age and declining health the officers can no longer fully execute their duties, one of the greatest wants in the Institution. . . . I believe it has a very injurious effect on the minds and health of the officers and assistants; . . . that they feel always subject to the danger of want. I need only refer to the fact of the deplorable state of mental disease which has existed among several of the officers of the Institution. During the time that I have been connected with it, six of the officers have left or died under mental disease. Being a medical man myself, and paying a good deal of attention to mental diseases, I can state that this is a proportion which is unknown among literary or scientific men in general. It is a question of a very serious nature. *There have been more who have died or left under such a malady than have died from other causes during the period of my services.*

"Almost all the officers in public offices, whose salaries, as I have stated, are larger than those in the Museum, have retiring pensions at the same time; this applies also to the attendants, whose salaries are exceedingly low."



rational, and the association with the learned men of the day alike instructive and pleasant. Librarians so placed frequently exercise a wide influence upon the current events of the period.

That the number of librarians of the combined classes existing in the United Kingdom is considerable—amounting, perhaps, to 500 or 600 in all—is certain. In the case of provincial libraries, many of the librarians combine other duties with their office—or, rather, their office is supplementary only to their daily vocation. But of the librarians, properly so-called, there are sufficient to constitute a community for purposes of observation. I don't think it would be taken amiss if the Library Association were to attempt to obtain returns, on cards properly prepared for the purpose, asking (1) when the Librarian commenced his duty? (2) his present age? (3) if his whole time is devoted to his duties, and to literary employment? (4) if he has himself been guilty of authorship in the way of books, or in the shape of articles to magazines or newspapers? (5) does his position entitle him to a pension? I don't know if we might venture upon a 6th query on the delicate point of remuneration, still less, if height, weight, and general state of health might be inquired into. A set of cards so filled up, and from time to time revised, would furnish a very efficient medium of determining the question of the longevity of librarians.

In our public institutions, such as the British Museum, the Bodleian, and Trinity College Library (Dublin), where the officials are happily and properly pensioned off with retiring allowances, there must exist records, which of themselves, would throw much light upon this interesting inquiry. But it would be by no means safe to rely upon such returns solely. A man holding office in such an institution, where he knows that he is provided for during the rest of his natural life, shares in none

of the anxieties and responsibilities which may surround other men whose positions are of uncertain duration, or whose emolument may depend in part or wholly upon results beyond their own control. It may be, however, that in their quiet security they miss something of the spur of wholesome ambition and consequent exertion, which, in reason, develops the mental, and perhaps, in some degree, even the physical powers.

Bringing into tabular form such of the librarians of this kingdom as I can find any records of,—and these, it will be remembered, are only the more prominent, and hence not a fair type of the whole, for reasons stated,—they are decidedly long-lived in the majority of instances:

|                                                   | <i>Year died. Age.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Brayley, Edw. Wedlake (London Inst.),             | 1854 81                |
| Dibdin, T. Fergall (Librarian and Author),        | 1847 77                |
| Ellis, Sir Henry (British Museum),                | 98                     |
| Herbert, Wm. (Corporation of London),             | 1851 70                |
| Horne, Thos. Hartwell (Bibliographer),            | 1862 82                |
| Laing, David (Signets Library),                   | 1878 86                |
| Porson, Richard (Librarian and Author),           | 1808 49                |
| Spilsbury, Wm. Holden (Lincolns Inn Library),     | 1877 74                |
| Kidd, John (Radcliffe Library, Oxford),           | 1851 76                |
| Haines, John (Radcliffe Library, Oxford),         | 1865 73                |
| Macray, John (Taylor Institution, Oxford),        | 1878 83                |
| Dewe, John (Oxford Free Public Library),          | 1866 71                |
| Malet, Rev. John Adam (of Trinity Coll., Dublin), | 1879 69                |
| Magliabecchi,                                     | 81                     |
| Bentley,                                          | 80                     |
| Mezzofanti,                                       | 75                     |
| Audiffredi,                                       | 80                     |
| Dr. Perts,                                        | 79                     |
| Bandinell,                                        | 82                     |
| Todd,                                             | 80                     |
| Sir F. Barnard,                                   | 80                     |
| Nicholas Carlisle,                                | 80                     |
| Dr. Cogswell (Astor Library),                     | 82                     |
| W. Cockram (London Library),                      | 72                     |

The following additional list is supplied by E. W. Ashbee, Esq.:

|                                         | <i>Born. Died. Age.</i> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Douce, Francis (British Museum),        | 1834 72                 |
| Forshall, Rev. Josiah (British Museum), | 1797 1863 66            |
| Ayscough, Samuel (British Museum),      | 1804 59                 |
| Planta, Joseph (British Museum),        | 1744 1827 83            |
| Nares, Rev. Robert (British Museum),    | 1829 76                 |
| Holmes, John (British Museum),          | 1800 1854 54            |
| Ducarel, Dr. — (Lambeth),               | 1713 1785 72            |
| Maitland, Rev. S. R. (Lambeth),         | 1795 1866 71            |
| Whisson, Stephen (Cambridge),           | 1783 68                 |
| Taylor, John (Cambridge),               | 1766 62                 |
| Clarke, E. D. (Cambridge),              | 1768 1828 54            |

|                                            |      |      |    |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------|----|
| Alchin, Wm. Taylor (Guildhall),            | 1865 | 76   |    |
| Wilson, Hor. Hayman (E. India House),      | 1860 | 74   |    |
| Thomson, Richard (London Inst.),           | 1865 | 70   |    |
| Weld, C. R. (Royal Society),               | 1818 | 1869 | 51 |
| Cochrane, John Geo. (London Library),      | 1852 | 71   |    |
| Wanley, Humf. (Librarian to E. of Oxford), | 1672 | 1726 | 54 |
| Crestadoro, Andrew (Manchester),           | 1879 | 79   |    |
| Panizzi, Sir Antonio (British Museum),     | 1737 | 1879 | 82 |

Looking for information in the direction of other countries, I find that there was published in France, in 1869, a table showing the *Length of Life in the Learned Professions*, wherein are properly included *Librarians*, although, to my surprise, they stand at the bottom of the list of the classes enumerated in the score of duration of life. Here are the details:

|                               | Years. |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Average longevity of Priests, | 57.3   |
| " " Judges,                   | 56.4   |
| " " Lawyers,                  | 56.1   |
| " " Doctors,                  | 56.1   |
| " " Bankers,                  | 54.7   |
| " " Librarians,               | 50.4   |

I find no indication of the data from which these facts were deduced, and hence cannot say who are included in the class of "Librarians." It is noticeable that authors are not enumerated as a class; this, however, may arise from the fact that authors are withdrawn from each of the classes named, and, indeed, from all classes. The duration of the lives of *Journalists* in France would present an interesting problem. Duelling and imprisonment seem to constitute important factors in their existence.

The French journal, *La Gaulois*, commenting upon the results of the preceding enumeration, expresses its surprise that the care and perusal of books should tend to shorten life; and suggests that the cause must be found in the nature of their contents! This points in the same direction as the famous English canon: the librarian who studies the contents of the books under his charge is lost!

In the United States, where public libraries as well as public schools (the former being but the complement of the

latter) constitute important elements in the commonwealth, there must be rapidly accumulating a large mass of data which will ultimately throw light upon the longevity of Librarians.

The entire question of the longevity of brain-workers, in relation to other classes of persons, is one full of interest; but the results (such as are already published) are scattered and fragmentary. All I can attempt to do further is to indicate the sources of additional information, and leave the matter in the hands of those with more time to pursue the inquiry:

TISSOT, S. A., *M. D.*, Prof. of Physic, at Berne, 1769.—An essay on diseases incidental to literary and sedentary persons, with proper rules for preventing their fatal consequences, and instructions for their cure. Trans. by J. Kirkpatrick, *M. D.* 2d ed., with large additions.

MADDEN, R. R., *M. D.*, 1833.—The Infirmities of Genius, illustrated by referring the anomalies in the literary character to the habits and constitutional peculiarity of men of genius. 2 v.

THACKRAH, C. TURNER, Surgeon, Leeds, 1831.—The effects of the principal arts, trades and professions, and of civil states and habits of living on health and longevity, with a particular reference to the trades and manufactures of Leeds, and suggestions for the removal of many of the agents which produce disease and shorten the duration of life. 2d ed., enlarged, 1832.

PINNEY, JOEL, Esq., 1856.—"The Influence of Occupation on health and life, with a remedy for attaining the utmost length of life compatible with the present constitution of man." London, 8vo.

GUY, WM. A., *M. B.*, Cambridge, 1851.—A paper read before the Statistical Society of London "On the Duration of Life among the Clergy." V. 16 of Jour. of Statistical Society.

GUY, WM. A., *M. B.*, Cambridge, 1846.—A paper read before the Statistical Society of London "On the Duration of Life among the English Gentry, with additional Observations on the Duration of Life among the Aristocracy." V. 9 of Jour. of Society, p. 37.

BEARD, Dr. G. M., New York, 1875.—"The Longevity of Brain-Workers," in the *Quarterly Journal of Science* for Oct., this year.

## MORE ABOUT CHARGING SYSTEMS.\*

AT Newburgh we have lately introduced a charging system, partly my own, but based on the Evansville and Po'keepsie method. Each book is represented by a green card, 3×4 in., bearing on the face its number and title, and 48 blank spaces. These book-cards are kept in numerical order in a partitioned card-box on the delivery table. A tinted card of the same size is given to each borrower, and has on its face his register number, name and residence, and 48 blank spaces, and printed instructions on its back. The numbers on both cards are printed in large, heavy-faced figures. By numerical and alphabetical registers, the borrower's name can be found by his number-card, or the number by his name.

The borrower, having selected a book, simply presents his card to the desk attendant, who enters on it, *with pen and ink*, the number of the book taken, and *stamps* the date, to guard against errors or alterations. This card is retained by the borrower, and presented whenever he returns or borrows a book. The book-card is taken from its box, the number of the borrower's card entered upon it, and placed under its proper date in the borrower's card-box, also kept on the table. When the book is returned, the charge on the borrower's card is canceled with a conductor's punch, and the book-card taken from the dated box and placed in its numerical order in the box containing the cards of all books on the shelves.

The date is affixed only to the borrower's card. It can be used for 24 charges, and the book-card for 48. When either of these cards are full, new ones are substituted, bearing the same numbers, and the old ones are preserved for future reference.

The delivery table is about 6 ft. long, and has convenient drawers, book-racks and pigeon holes. The top is protected by an iron net-work enclosure, 30 in. high, with two 9×12 in. openings in front and one on each side, for the passage of books and cards.

The desk is in the center of this table. The borrower's card-boxes, in two parts, are on the two ends. The card-box for books on the shelves is placed at the right, back of the right-hand half of the borrower's box. On the left, opposite, is a small desk for the assistant. Each half of the borrower's box is composed of 7 tiers of 10 apartments each. Tin partitions, running lengthwise of the table, divide the 14 tiers into 140 apartments. Each tier of 10 apartments has at the top the date of the day when it was filled, like Mr. Jackson's check-box (see p. 231, v. 3). This differs from that in having only 10 apartments, and in the tiers not being movable.

For every book taken Feb. 7, its card would be placed in the tier dated 7. In which of the 10 apartments would be determined by the last figure of its number,—No. 1, 11, 21, etc., in the upper subdivision; No. 2, 12, 22, etc., in the second; No. 10, 20, 30, etc., being in the lower or tenth subdivision. Thus, the date on the borrower's card tells in what tier, and the last figure of the number in what apartment of the tier to look for the book-card. We allow books to be kept out 14 days. A book taken out Feb. 7 would be due Feb. 21, and if not returned that day is subject to a fine.

The library being closed two Sundays in every 14 days, the 14 apartments cover 16

\*These notes on charging systems were sent for v. 4, and crowded out. They follow the series of papers on "Charging systems," in v. 3, and should be read in connection with them. Mr. Estabrook's and Mr. Schwartz's contributions have been edited from their communications, so as to be self-explanatory without the diagrams which were sent.—Eds. L. J.



days. Experience will teach the necessity of having one empty apartment all the time, dividing the date you are using from the 14th date before.

On Feb. 22, the number on the tier dated 7 is changed to 22, and if any cards are remaining in this apartment, they must be removed, and we immediately discover what books are overdue. Cards representing books overdue, at the bindery, worn out, or lost, are placed in pigeon holes, properly labeled, so that we have always right before us an account of every book belonging to the library. We have about 12,000 v. Our force consists of a librarian and two assistants. We have delivered and charged 200 books in an hour. The cards do not cost half as much as the ledger and index formerly in use here. It is but a moment's work to ascertain: 1. Where every book is. 2. What ones are overdue, and who has them. 3. How many are delivered per day or hour. 4. How often any one book is taken out. 5. What ones are most popular with our readers. 6. Whether any given book is on the shelf or not. The book-cards give all this information. There is no danger of any person taking out more books than he is entitled to; no dispute about the fact of his having a book out; or when it was taken; or the justice of a fine,—the borrower's card settles these questions at a glance.

#### C. ESTABROOK.

While the valuable series of papers on "Charging Systems," in the JOURNAL, v. 3, give a pretty exhaustive account and criticism of the various methods of charging loans, in use or proposed, it appears to me sufficient justice has not been done to a scheme in actual use, which, in my opinion, combines in a greater degree than any other many valuable features. The scheme in question is briefly described on p. 254-5, v. 1, of the JOURNAL.

A perfect system should give the following information:

1st. In regard to the BOOKS it should show: (a.) Where every book is that is absent from its shelf. (b.) How often every book has been issued. (c.) The character of the reading of each day's issue.

2d. In regard to the READERS, it should show: (a.) The number of books taken out, with the dates of their issue and return. (b.) There should be a receipt for every book returned. (c.) The reader should have *in his possession* the means of knowing when his book is due.

3d. In regard to TIME, it should show: (a.) The number of volumes issued each day. (b.) The books overdue, so that they can be sent for without delay.

Now, all these requirements are met in the most perfect manner and with the smallest possible outlay of time and labor, as follows:

1st. A card or slip, containing the name of the work, and spaces for the date of issue and number of reader, is placed and remains in every volume until it is issued, or otherwise removed from its shelf. When a book is issued its card is stamped with the date, and the reader's number is written in pencil opposite. *This is all the writing required by this system.* The card is then filed, in the order of its shelf number, among the issues for that day.

2d. Each reader is provided with a card containing spaces for date of issue and return. This card remains in his possession and must be presented in order to obtain a book. When a book is returned the date is stamped on this card, opposite the date of issue. This is equivalent to a receipt from the library. The book-card is then taken from the date-box and replaced in its book, the date of return being first stamped on it.

As the cards for each day's issue are

kept in separate compartments, the books overdue show for themselves without any additional labor.

The combined elements of completeness, simplicity, and above all dispatch, embodied in this scheme, seem to me to make it peculiarly appropriate for libraries with a large constituency of readers, and a consequent heavy circulation; but I do not see why it could not be used in the smaller libraries with equal benefit, unless the necessity imposed on every reader of retaining possession of his card and presenting it at the library when a book is wanted or returned is considered as an insurmountable objection.

JACOB SCHWARTZ.

The plan described by Mr. Estabrook seems to me an excellent one. I venture to add some suggestions which my recent study of the subject leads me to think improvements. If not, the notes may be suggestive.

For reasons given in previous articles, a postal-card size card would be better than the 3×4 inch.

The book-card could easily have 100 blanks instead of 48, as one side is left entirely blank. Then each new card would show by its number how many 100 times the book had been issued.

The shelf-box, as I would call the book-card box for books on the shelves, should be divided into 10 tiers of 10 apartments each. The book numbers being Arabic figures, it would be easier to find any given card.

*Borrowers* is too long a word; *loan-card* would be better. *Reader-card* is sometimes used, but there may be a distinction between a reader-card (for reading-room use) and a borrower's-card. *Loan-card* is as clear a word as *borrower's*, and only one syllable instead of three. This loan-card should have 50 places, to get aliquot parts of 100, and there is plenty of room for them.

Instructions on the back are better than to use both sides like the book-card. Readers often wear the cards out by the time 50 places are filled, and they need something to remind them of the rules.

A hard pencil would answer, instead of ink. Protection against skillful fraud and forgery is less needed for cheap novels than in bank business. The trial is seldom made and is easily detected. But the stylographic pen, now so much used, removes the objection to ink, and all its advantages are retained.

Having selected a book may imply access to the shelves, which in most libraries is impracticable. But the reader can fill in the numbers of the books he wants, and the date-stamp against the one delivered will show plainly which is out. Those returned are indicated so plainly that no confusion can result. Without access to the shelves, books must be called for in writing. No one would attempt, except in the smallest libraries, to remember oral calls. If in writing, it would be easier to use the card than to fill in call-slips, which are not to be used in charging. The cards will fill up faster, but the reader will not lose lists of books made out with special care, a common fault of the slip system.

The punch I once started to use at Amherst, but gave it up because it took too long. It is very distinct, but does not tell the date of return, a fact that should be somewhere preserved. Another column, for returns and stamping in the date, would be an improvement.

As there is no other record in the library of the date when the book was drawn, it ought to be stamped on the book-card. The date-box shows this date, but in the constant reference to the box, cards may be displaced, and there is no means of correcting mistakes. It is often a matter of interest, in studying the reading of any book to know when it was

taken out. With a stamp, this fact takes only an instant of time and well repays the labor. When the book-card gets into the delinquent-box, the date must be added somewhere, and I should do it at the first, tho it is not essential.

In replacing filled cards, the second should be numbered 2, the next 3, etc., and the date given. In looking up the popularity of a book, it is necessary to know how many cards have been filled before, and at what date the book-card was started.

I should call the borrower's-card-box the loan-box. The name given misleads. It is the book-cards, not the borrower's-cards that are kept in this box.

Pigeon holes for the over-due, lost, at the bindery, etc., book-cards are less convenient than to use the 15th tier of boxes for over-due and the 16th for all the other books off the shelves. A separate pigeon-hole for each class of absentees makes it too much work to hunt up a book. To put over-due books in with the others is bad, as books at the bindery do not want sending for as do the over-due. Even with this improved arrangement, we may have to look in 16 boxes to find a book off the shelves, a necessary defect of any check-box by dates, except the new one (described on p. 370, v. 3), which allows instant reference, and also tells all over-due books.

Referring to Mr. Schwartz's paper, I intended to express a high opinion of the Evansville scheme, when I said, v. 3, p. 286: "I think it, or a variation of it, could be made about the best possible system for many libraries." The Newburgh system given above is a slight variation, keeping the cards in a box at the desk instead of in the books.

A word on the standard laid down for a perfect system: I think it quite unnecessary

for a charging system to show the character of the reading of each day's issue. This, as an accident of date systems, may be sometimes of use. It is vastly more important to study the character of the circulation for longer periods, and whenever, for special reasons, a single day is to be studied, it can easily be done by keeping the slips or cards of the day till its end, instead of distributing at once on issue. No safe deductions can be made from the character of a single day's issue. The average of many days must be taken, and it is too much labor to do it for each day and add together, when the same result can be attained so much easier.

On the other hand, a perfect system should tell not only the date of issue and return of each reader's book, but what those books were. This is certainly an important thing to be studied, and must be studied, if at all, by individuals. The Newburgh system shows the book and date of issue, but not of return. Mr. Schwartz shows both dates but gives no clue to the book. The former is much the best of the two, but all three should be given in a perfect system, and this requires writing the book number. The extreme of economy would give only date of issue on the loan-card (returns being crossed off) and only the reader's number on the book-card. This system would "work" with a minimum of labor, but would not give the results which Mr. Schwartz rightly insists on in a perfect system. Some one must write the book numbers in calling for the book. Readers can seldom be allowed to go to the shelves and select directly, while calling orally is out of the question. With the slip system, the slip already written is used, and even this one number has not to be written at the desk. The system is certainly good, but by no means so perfect as the above letter would imply.

MELVIL DUL.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

MARCH, 1880.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editors' copies, should be addressed EDITORS LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York, except material for special departments, which should be forwarded direct to departmental editors.*

*Library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances, should be sent to MELVIL DUB, Sec. A. L. A., General Offices American Library Association, 38 Hawley Street (P. O. Box 260), Boston.*

*European matter may be sent to the care of H. R. TEDDER, Sec. L. A. U. K., Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*The Editors are not responsible for the errors expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in articles whose authors request adherence to their own styles.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of 10 cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

PURSUANT to the instructions of the Boston Conference, we print elsewhere those library laws which the Association committee thought included features such as might wisely be adopted in other States. The present New Hampshire law, the type of the "short laws," is very much the same as the original law of 1849, almost the pioneer of public library legislation. The Illinois law, in which much of Mr. Poole's experience was utilized, has formed the basis for much of the library legislation in the west. The Wisconsin law is thought to be peculiarly effective for the necessary purpose of protecting libraries against human pests. A clause of the other Wisconsin law, incorporating the Milwaukee Public Library, is important, in placing the appointing power in the hands of the trustees, where it belongs, instead of leaving it along with the other party spoils to the Common Council. In another issue we may give Dr. Homes' draft of a law, which, in his judgment, combines the best features of these several laws, although it was not thought best to incorporate it in the committee's report. His list will be found practically useful in studying this subject.

THE movement in New York for free lending libraries has taken the definite shape of an incorporated association, of which the details are given elsewhere. Its incorporators number some of the best men in New York, and as the ladies are also interested in the movement, having started the library from which the association has grown, there ought to be no doubt of the success of this enterprise, which meets a real metropolitan need. Mr. Robert Hoe, Jr., who is the trustee of the Niblo bequest to the Y. M. C. A. library, is also one of the incorporators of this association, and we understand has taken into consideration the suggestion made in the JOURNAL of last month. There are difficulties in the way of any legal association of the two plans, because the Niblo bequest is given specifically to the Y. M. C. A.; but it is thought the desired result may be practically reached by making the Y. M. C. A. a circulating library, which now it is not, and permitting books to be drawn from it through the branches of the new association. We learn that for the present it is intended to apply only the interest of the Niblo bequest to the purchase of books.

We can imagine how the hearts of the members of the L. A. U. K. leaped up for joy at the sight of the first sheets of the printed list of accessions to the British Museum, whatever bibliographical criticisms they may, or may not, call forth. This is an earnest of what is to come under the present enterprising management of the Museum, which will make its Library more than it has been before the Capitol of books for all the English-speaking peoples. Meanwhile, the national library of the United States is as fast going behindhand, despite Mr. Spofford's appeals. It is eight years since more room began to be needed, and the difficulty has been getting steadily worse. "They do these things better in France," for the appeal in behalf of the National Library in Paris has been at once responded to by the government, and the adjoining buildings, which threaten its loss by fire, will be removed.

MR. GREEN's suggestions as to the use of the tabulated form for statistics, drawn up for the A. A., are timely. In this, as in other special work, a number of members spent much valuable time for the sake of obtaining certain useful results. If their recommendations are not made use of, the results cannot be had, and what is the use of such service as is rendered by the A. L. A.? There are two sides to coöperation: we must give as well as get, and if the recommendations of the Association are not adopted in practice and its useful enterprises supported, *cui bono?*

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## A. L. A. CATALOG.

*Report of progress up to March 1st, 1880.*

THE provisional alphabetical list of 5,000 titles is completed. The general classification is well under way. It is roughly estimated that the proportions of the various divisions will be about as follows: Theology, 8 per cent.; Philosophy, 4; Society, 6; Poetry and Drama, 6; Fiction and Juveniles, 12; Other literature (essays, etc.), 14; History, Geography, and Travels, 26; Biography, 10; Natural Science, 8; Arts and Trades, 6.

The following circular to specialists, requesting the preparation of short lists on separate subjects has been sent out, and it is already clear that a valuable amount of assistance will be received from their co-operation.

OFFICE OF AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,  
32 HAWLEY ST., BOSTON, Feb. 23, 1880.

To

THIS application is made to you in pursuance of the action of the American Library Association, in hopes that you will be able to furnish on or before March 15th, 1880, a contribution to the American Library Association Catalog, now preparing for the press. What you are asked for is, a list of a few of the best books on the subject of . . . . . together with brief explanations of the scope and significance of each book, and their relations to each other, and to the subject.

The proposed Catalog is to be a list of what are supposed on the whole *the best 5000 books in English, and now in the market, for a public library*. It will be set off into parts by the usual main divisions of literature, so that the list of fiction, of poetry, of scientific books, of historical books, etc., can be supplied separately. Under such of these main divisions as require it there will be an alphabet of separate topics or ultimate subjects, and under each of these will be named the books recommended relating to it. Under the title of each book it is proposed to give such explanation as may be desirable about the book, its relation to the subject, under whose name it appears, and its relation to other books on the same subject; and perhaps to add to some extent notes of a more general nature under the topic heads or general heads.

To make such a work what it should be, as a guide to readers and buyers, all the aid will be required which can be obtained from the ablest specialist scholars. It is earnestly hoped that you will allow your name to be recorded among these, who will be the real editors of the book.

A printed specimen page\* is appended, to show the appearance of the proposed page, and something like the way in which the notes to separate titles are to appear; only it should be remembered that these notes, which are by the managing editor, are far from being given as models of knowledge or wisdom. The nature of these notes will however show, it is hoped, that you will be able to contribute the information desired, so as to instruct and benefit the public, without having to spend an undue proportion of labor.

Any further suggestions that you may feel disposed to give, such as lists and notes on any other topic that may be interesting to you, or hints regarding the plan or details of the work, will be thankfully received and carefully considered.

Address (as above),

FRED. B. PERKINS,  
Managing Editor.

## UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

## MARCH MONTHLY MEETING.

THE fifth monthly meeting of the third year of the Association was held at the London Institution on March 5, 1880, at 8 p. m., Mr. W. H. OVERALL in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed as correctly entered, the chairman called upon Mr. T. W. SHORE (executive officer of the Hartley Institution, Southampton) to read his paper on: "Librarians and Ancient Parish Registers." Mr. SHORE said: Parish Registers are such extremely valuable books that the question of their safe custody is one to which this Association cannot be indifferent. Mr. Burn, in his "History of Parish Registers in England," has given much valuable information; Mr. Seton, of H. M. General Register House, Edinburgh, has drawn attention to the subject in the January number of the *Antiquary*, and an article and correspondence on the same subject have lately appeared in the *Standard*. The present system of registration in England and Wales, under which a copy of the entry of each birth, marriage, and death, by the local registrars, is transmitted to the General Register Office at Somerset House, came into operation on the 1st July, 1837, and although the acts and ordinances under which Parish Registers were established ordered that transcripts should be forwarded to the Bishop of the diocese, to be handed down to posterity as part of the diocesan records, yet it is notorious that this duty was very often neglected. For example, Mr. Burn informs us that in that

\* See specimen titles in JOURNAL, v. 4, p. 155.



part of the diocese of Winton which comprises the county of Surrey, there were, from 1597 to 1800, about 142 old parish churches, and there are only 20 duplicate registers for all these parishes between the above dates. The safe custody of the registers previous to 1837 is, therefore, a matter of very great importance, and the necessity of making some change can only be judged by those who have in various places inspected these records. In the majority of cases the parish church is not a fit place for the custody through several centuries of a valuable series of books. Even at the present day, when the key of the chest in which the registers are preserved is usually kept by the incumbent instead of the parish clerk, it is probable that in a majority of cases damp, dust, and general neglect are only too surely accomplishing the work of destruction. The opposition of the clergy to the transfer of these registers to the custody of the Registrar General in 1837, when the registers of the Nonconformists were so transferred, formed a part of their general opposition to the Registration Acts, and we have, in consequence, a much less perfect set of registers in England and Wales than would otherwise have been the case. If some effort is not made by antiquaries, genealogists, associations such as this, and all who are interested in the preservation of precious books, it may safely be affirmed that as time goes on many of these registers will gradually disappear. Let the visitor at the country parsonage who doubts this request his host to allow him to examine the oldest volumes of the register, and he will come to the opinion that Somerset House is a much more suitable place for these books than the church or the parsonage house. The Library Association of the United Kingdom may very well join in the attempt to stay this natural destruction of parish registers, and I would suggest that a general resolution or recommendation on the subject should be proposed, and, if carried, sent to the various newspapers for publication. A correspondent of the *Standard*, of January 12, 1880, gives an instance of care for ancient parochial registers which is worthy of all publicity: It is that of the Vicar of Leigh, in Lancashire, who has for some time been publishing the ancient registers of that parish in his monthly parochial magazine. This plan affords an excellent opportunity of doing some really good work in connection with these ancient records to the incumbents of all except the most populous parishes, and with respect to these, I think the Library Association, while raising its voice on this question, may do something towards making known the existence of the Harleian Society, which has been established for the publication of unedited manuscripts relating to genealogy, etc.

and which has already published the registers of several large city parishes, and is now engaged upon others.

In the course of the ensuing discussion, Mr. SHORE exhibited a folio book of 230 pages containing the accounts of the Guild of the Holy Ghost, near Basingstoke, from 1557 to 1654, which he had brought to light at the Hartley Institution. Mr. C. WALFORD said that the parish register is a record of local history, and in many places the only one. The particulars preserved in them are often very interesting. For example, on the occasion of any great calamities, as fires or storms, a petition used to be made to the king, who issued a brief which was sent to each parish, and accounts of these, and of the collections made upon them, are entered in the parish register. As to the book of accounts, he remarked that at the dissolution of the guilds, though many of their records were destroyed, probably many others were put away to prevent inquiry as to property, and are still in existence in remote places. Mr. OVERALL said that the subject was one of considerable importance, and worthy of the support of the Association. There had been some efforts made a few years since to have the registers deposited in some central place, but this did not meet with the sympathy of the custodians, who feared the loss of some fees. If there could be a well-defined plan settled, by which every Public Library throughout the United Kingdom should become the depository of the registers of the district, it would meet with favor, and the legislature might be persuaded to pass some general measure to carry it into effect. A general Index of Names, too, would be a great desideratum. In many City parishes these interesting archives are most perfect. The registers of the parish of St. Matthew, Friday street, commence in 1538, the year in which Lord Cromwell ordered that a register should be kept in every parish. The registers of St. Mary, Aldermanbury; St. Mildred's, Poultry; All Hallows', Bread street; Christ Church, and several others, begin in 1538; those of St. James', Garlick Hithe, are earlier—1535. Mr. WELCH said that many London parish and ward books had been deposited in the Corporation Library; among them were the records of the Pie Powder Court of Bartholomew Fair, the Court Book of St. Martin-le-Grand, the Vestry Books of St. Mildred's, Poultry, and other parishes.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. SHORE for his interesting paper.

Some critical and explanatory remarks on Mr. BAILEY's paper on "Some points to be considered in preparing catalogues of transactions and periodicals" (See *JOUR.*, v. 4, p. 439), by Mr. T. W. NEWTON, joint compiler of the catalogue of the Library

of the Museum of Practical Geology; together with a reply by Mr. BAILEY, were read by the secretary.

The first portion of the new printed additions to the British Museum library was shown, and some donations were placed upon the table.

WE have been requested to state that Mr. W. BRACE has been appointed editor of the Monthly Notes of the L. A. U. K.

#### LIBRARY LEGISLATION.—I.

IN obedience to the request of the Committee on Legislation, adopted by the Boston Conference (JOURNAL, v. 4, p. 302), the following laws, which are valuable in their historical relations as well as for their representative features, are reprinted in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, together with Dr. Homes' valuable index to State legislation as to public libraries throughout the Union.

LIST OF STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY LAWS,  
Comprised in the A. L. A. Collection made by Dr. H. A. Homes.

|                                                                              |      |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--|
| <i>California.</i>                                                           |      |  |
| School library law,                                                          | 1870 |  |
| Library Ass'n law, amended                                                   | 1870 |  |
| Free public library law,                                                     | 1878 |  |
| <i>Colorado.</i>                                                             |      |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1872 |  |
| <i>Connecticut.</i>                                                          |      |  |
| School library law,                                                          | 1839 |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1875 |  |
| Extension of the above,                                                      | 1876 |  |
| <i>Illinois.</i>                                                             |      |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1872 |  |
| Public library, amended, section 6,                                          | 1874 |  |
| Public library associations to sell property to public libraries,            | 1874 |  |
| <i>Indiana.</i>                                                              |      |  |
| School library law,                                                          | 1841 |  |
| Library associations' law,                                                   | 1852 |  |
| County libraries' law,                                                       | 1852 |  |
| Township libraries under the school law,                                     | 1855 |  |
| Township libraries under the school law, the same amended,                   | 1865 |  |
| Township libraries under the school law, the same extended,                  | 1871 |  |
| Library associations' law extended, and cities authorized to have libraries, | 1873 |  |
| <i>Iowa.</i>                                                                 |      |  |
| Public town library law,                                                     | 1873 |  |
| <i>Kansas.</i>                                                               |      |  |
| School district libraries,                                                   | 1870 |  |
| Peabody town library,                                                        | 1876 |  |
| <i>Maine.</i>                                                                |      |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1854 |  |
| Protection law,                                                              | 1877 |  |
| <i>Massachusetts.</i>                                                        |      |  |
| School district libraries,                                                   | 1842 |  |
| Boston public library,                                                       | 1848 |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1851 |  |
| Public library law, amended,                                                 | 1866 |  |
| Street lamps and libraries in distr'ts of towns,                             | 1870 |  |
| Duplicates of State library,                                                 | 1870 |  |
| Deposits by cities in public libraries,                                      | 1871 |  |
| Protection of libraries,                                                     | 1872 |  |
| Associations acting as public libraries,                                     | 1872 |  |
| Public libraries, appropriations for by cities or towns,                     | 1873 |  |
| <i>Michigan.</i>                                                             |      |  |
| Constitutional provision,                                                    | 1850 |  |
| School district library law,                                                 | 1859 |  |
| State documents and laws to Detroit, etc.,                                   | 1872 |  |
| Loan of books from towns to school districts.                                |      |  |
| Compiled statutes, p. 1198,                                                  | 1871 |  |
| Public libraries' law,                                                       | 1877 |  |
| Valuelessness of school libraries. See Educ. Report of 1877.                 |      |  |
| <i>Minnesota.</i>                                                            |      |  |
| Exemption of public libraries,                                               | 1867 |  |
| Protection of public libraries,                                              | 1875 |  |
| <i>Nebraska.</i>                                                             |      |  |
| First-class cities may have public libraries,                                | 1873 |  |
| Exemption from tax. <i>Rev. Stat.</i>                                        |      |  |
| Cities to have public libraries,                                             | 1875 |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1877 |  |
| <i>New Hampshire.</i>                                                        |      |  |
| Public library law,                                                          | 1849 |  |
| Public library law, the same as re-written for revised statutes,             | 1867 |  |
| Protection of public libraries,                                              | 1877 |  |
| <i>New Jersey.</i>                                                           |      |  |
| Library associations' law,                                                   | 1875 |  |
| Library associations' law. Second law passed same session on same subject,   | 1875 |  |
| <i>New York.</i>                                                             |      |  |
| School library law,                                                          | 1835 |  |
| School law allowing township libraries,                                      | 1847 |  |
| Protection of libraries,                                                     | 1870 |  |
| Public libraries law,                                                        | 1872 |  |
| School district libraries,                                                   | 1875 |  |
| <i>Ohio.</i>                                                                 |      |  |
| School libraries' law,                                                       | 1853 |  |
| Libraries for cities, first law of                                           | 1867 |  |
| Libraries for cities, second law of                                          | 1867 |  |
| Library buildings, direction of, etc., second-class cities,                  | 1868 |  |

|                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Libraries for first-class cities,          | April 18, 1873 |
| Libraries for townships of less than 1000, |                |
|                                            | May 1, 1873    |
| Powers of towns to tax for libraries,      | 1869           |
| —The above amended,                        | 1871           |
| —Both of these as amended in law of        | 1875           |

*Pennsylvania.*

|                                                 |      |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| District school libraries,                      | 1864 |
| General act for incorporating library assoc'ns, | 1874 |

*Rhode Island.*

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Power to towns to establish libraries. (Rev. statutes.) | 1873 |
| School library law,                                     | 1873 |
| Library associations. (Revised statutes.)               | 1873 |
| Free public library law,                                | 1875 |

*Texas.*

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Free library law, | 1874 |
|-------------------|------|

*Vermont.*

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Free library law,          | 1865 |
| Free library law, amended, | 1867 |
| Library associations,      | 1869 |

*Wisconsin.*

|                                              |      |
|----------------------------------------------|------|
| Protection of libraries,                     | 1878 |
| Library associations,                        | 1871 |
| Public libraries law,                        | 1872 |
| Same law amended,                            | 1876 |
| Pub. library law as in the revised statutes, | 1878 |
| Milwaukee public library law,                | 1878 |

## NEW HAMPSHIRE.

(p. 112, Chap. 46. 1867 Revised Statutes.)

*Section 1.* Any town may raise and appropriate money to procure books, maps, charts, periodicals and other publications, for the establishment and perpetual maintenance, within its limits, of a public library, for the purchase of such land and the erection of such buildings as may be necessary for the suitable accommodation thereof, and for the compensation of such officers or agents as may be necessarily employed in the establishment and management of such library.

*Sec. 2.* Every public library established under the provisions of this chapter shall be open to the free use of every inhabitant of the town where the same exists, for the general diffusion of intelligence among all classes of the community, subject to such rules and regulations for the well ordering and careful preservation thereof as may be established and ordained by such town.

*Sec. 3.* Any town may receive, hold and possess, or sell and dispose of, all such gifts, donations, devises, bequests and legacies as may be made to such town for the purpose of establishing, increas-

ing or improving such public library; and may apply the proceeds, interest, rents and profits accruing therefrom in such manner as will best promote the prosperity and utility of such library.

*Sec. 4.* Every town in which a public library is established shall be entitled to receive annually a copy of the laws, journals and all other works published by authority of the State, for the use of such library; and the secretary is required to furnish the same, from year to year, to such town, for that purpose.

July 7, 1877.

*Sec. 1.* Whoever willfully or maliciously writes upon, injures or defaces, tears or destroys, any book, map, chart, plate, picture, engraving or statue belonging to any law school, college, town, city or other public library, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, or by imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both, for every such offence.

*Sec. 2.* This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(*Illinois and Wisconsin laws to be given in next number.*)

## REFERENCE-LISTS ON SPECIAL TOPICS.

WE propose to print in the JOURNAL, from time to time, in addition to lists such as Prof. Sumner's, which will be continued as the arrangements of the specialists (of course busy men) who have been asked to prepare them permit, brief lists on more specific subjects of the day, as we may be able to procure them. The following are from Mr. W. E. Foster's Providence Public Library notes, being part of a bulletin for composition work at Brown University:

*Should parochial schools be established in the United States?*

(a.) *Collateral considerations.*

See article on parochial schools in European countries. ("Year-book of educ.," p. 166-67.)

Attitude of the Roman church towards modern learning, expressed in the encyclical letter of Leo XIII., 1879. (Printed in *Catholic world*, Oct., 1879.)

Opposing attitude expressed in Bain's "Education as a science."

Opposing attitude expressed in Herbert Spencer's "Education."

A table of parochial schools now existing in the U. S. ("Year book of educ.," p. 165-66.)

(b.) *Recent discussion, from the side of the Roman church.*

1875. Sept. *Catholic world*. "Rights of the church over education."

1880. Feb. *N. Am. rev.* Card. Manning, on "The Catholic church and modern society."

1880. Feb. *Catholic world*. "Mr. Froude's attack on liberty and catholicism."

1880. Mch. *N. Am. review*. Bishop Spalding's answer to Froude.

(c.) *Recent discussion, from the opposite side.*

1879. Oct. *British quarterly review*. "The Vatican and civilization."

1879. Dec. { *N. Am. review*.

1880. Jan. { Froude's "Romanism and the Irish race in the U. S." Answered above.

1880. Mch. *International review*. John Jay, on "The Catholic question."

*Will the publication of Charles Dickens' letters enhance his fame?*

Compare Forster's "Life of Dickens."

See also the reference list, p. 100-101, *New England Journal of Education*, Feb. 12, 1880.

(a.) *Adverse criticism on the "Letters."*

*Catholic world*, Feb., 1880.

*Literary world* (by "H. H."), v. 10, p. 434-35.

Particularly, *Atlantic*, Feb., 1880, p. 280-82.

(b.) *Favorable criticism.*

*Literary world*, v. 10, p. 480.

*Fortnightly rev.* [By W. Minto. Repr. in *Littell's*, Jan. 30, 1880, p. 1-13.]

*Appleton's journal*, Jan., 1880, p. 72-81 (and *Literary world*, Jan. 31, 1880.)

(c.) Two very impartially written reviews are Matthew Browne, *Contemporary rev.*, Jan., 1880, pp. 77-85.

J. T. Morse, Jr., *Internat. rev.*, Mch., 1880.

*Should legal-tender notes be withdrawn from circulation?*

The "act to authorize" their issue, is printed in the "Public acts of the 37th congress, 2d session," ch. 33, p. 338, appendix to *Congressional globe*, 1862.

McPherson's "Political history" gives a summary of the legislation connected with it (p. 351-59).

See also Spaulding's "History of legal-tender paper money."

For the effects of the act of 1862-70, see Sumner's "American currency," p. 187-215.

Cf. Mr. H. B. Adams' article, *N. Am. rev.*, Apr., 1870 (pp. 299-327).

The resolution introduced by Senator Bayard, withdrawing them, is printed, *Congressional record*, Dec. 18, 1879, p. 12.

For discussion on this resolution, see

(1) *Opposing withdrawal.*

Senator Morgan's remarks, Dec. 18, 1879.

(*Congressional rec.*, p. 12-18.)

Representative Price's remarks, Jan. 16, 1880.

(*Congressional rec.*, p. 10-13.)

(2) *Favoring withdrawal.*

Senator Bayard's remarks, Jan. 28, 1880.

(*Congressional rec.*, p. 4-10.)

Representative Ballou's remarks, Feb. 15, 1880.

(*Congressional rec.*, p. 5-7.)

*Is a change in English orthography desirable?*

No.

See Johnson's preface to his dictionary (pub. 1755), p. 253-55.

See Trench's "English, past and present" (1855), ch. 8.

See J. G. Pyle's article, *New-Englander*, Jan., 1880, p. 62-69.

See anon. writer, *Scribner's*, Jan., 1880, p. 465.

Yes.

See W. D. Whitney's "How shall we spell?"

in "Oriental and Linguistic Studies," s. 1.

See A. Van Name's review of Whitney, *N. Am. rev.*, 1875, p. 475.

See T. R. Lounsbury on "English spelling and spelling reform," *Scribner's*, Sept., 1879, and Oct., 1879 (p. 729-36, 864-73).

See T. R. Lounsbury, in answer to an anonymous writer, *Scribner's*, Jan., 1880, p. 465.

See also M. B. O. True's article in the *Western*, Jan., 1880.

Note. On p. 154-56 of the "Year-book of education," 1878, are given:

(1) The series of changes recommended by the American philological assoc.

(2) The series of changes recommended by the Spelling reform assoc., July, 1877.

#### THE LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE acorn planted in Quaker soil by Benjamin Franklin, in 1731, has now become a sturdy oak. The Library Co. of Philadelphia, whose members at the first went up Pewter Platter Alley to the Library room over the kitchen in Robert Grace's house, now owns two buildings, the Library proper, at the corner of Juniper and Locust streets, and the Ridgway Branch, at the corner of Broad and Christian streets.

For the latter, costing \$800,000, they are indebted to the liberality of the late Dr. James Rush, son of Dr. Benjamin Rush of Revolutionary memory, and author of the "Philosophy of the human voice." It was built by Dr. Rush's executor, Henry J. Williams, and conveyed to the Library Co. in May 1878. The work of removing the

books to this magnificent fire-proof structure—one of the noblest buildings in America—was begun at once, and it occupied a year, the books being, for the first time, arranged on the shelves by subjects. On the grand gallery in the main hall are arranged the books of the Loganian Library, amounting to about 14,000 volumes, every one of which passed through the hands of the binder and was put in complete order before being placed on the shelves. In addition to the Loganian Library, the Ridgway Branch contains about 50,000 volumes belonging to the Library Co., which are stored in the North wing, and 4,000 volumes of the private library of Dr. Rush, which are kept in the Memorial Room in the second story of the South wing. Works on bibliography are kept in the Librarian's Room, as well as the books designated by the marks *Y i i*, which signifies *Rarissima necnon pretiosa*, and which are under lock and key, with the exception of those in a showcase in the middle of the main hall.

The bulk of the important collections under the control of the Directors of the Library Co. being thus safely housed in a fire-proof building, and all the most valuable books being secure from danger, the attention of the Board was directed to their duties as Trustees of the Building Fund. This was a fund started in 1855 by subscription, and which, mainly by a bequest of the late Joseph Fisher of \$50,000, amounted in 1879 to a principal sum of \$70,000, besides \$50,000 of compound interest. The principal had been invested in 1869 in a lot of ground at the corner of Locust and Juniper streets—a very desirable and central location—and it was ascertained that at the low prices prevailing in January 1879, the interest—\$50,000—would be sufficient to put up a comfortable building to be used as the circulating department of the library. Accordingly the contracts were made, the building erected, and on Tuesday, the 24th of February last, the new building was opened to the public. The operations of the library were only suspended for two days, the old company appearing on the new boards with the addition of only one performer, a lady librarian, who is in charge of the ladies' room.

The dimensions of the main hall of the Locust street building are 59 x 59 feet. It is lighted chiefly from the top, thus giving the wall space for books. The delivery desk is on the right as you enter, so that every one going in or coming out has to pass it under inspection. The books are mostly under lock and key, but the newest books, and certain books of reference, are open to the public. There is a small room devoted to periodicals, where the latter can be read before being bound, a privilege which was not enjoyed by the

members when the Library was at its old location at Fifth and Library streets. There is a side-entrance on Locust street, the corner room being devoted to unpacking and labeling books. There is a grand gallery running round the main hall, on which, and in a corner room containing Congressional documents, are arranged about 36,000 volumes, the main floor accommodating some 10,000 more. In the front part of the building there is a second story, mainly occupied by a large room for the meetings of the Directors. The Librarian's private room, which connects with the delivery desk, is a cheerful apartment, furnished with a burglar-proof vault for the treasure, and a cloak and wash room. In the basement are the janitor's quarters, and the steam heating apparatus. On the whole, the new quarters, though lacking the venerable air of the old library, are more convenient and better arranged. The approbation of the members of the company, and of the public (who are allowed to subscribe by the year, or to take single books out on liberal terms), is shown by the increased attendance, the daily average of visitors being double what it was before. Several new subscribers have been added to the Association.

The old building is now for sale, and when it shall be disposed of there will be an additional yearly fund for the purchase of books.

The Librarian's staff consists now of Mr. George M. Abbot, Assistant, in charge of the Philadelphia Library, with four subordinates and a janitor, and Mr. Bunford Samuel, Assistant, in charge of the Ridgway branch, with one subordinate, a janitor, and a watchman.

The endowment of the Ridgway branch is sufficient to pay the current expenses, and when the annuities fall in there will be about \$5,000 a year for the purchase of books. The Loganian Library, after paying rent and salaries, has about \$500 a year for the purchase of books, and the Library Co. has about \$4,000 a year for books and binding, which will be increased when the old building is disposed of.

On the whole, this venerable institution, which has always been cramped in its resources, seems to be entering on a period of prosperity and increasing usefulness.

LLOYD P. SMITH.

#### A NEW BOSTON IDEA.

EVEN Boston must have still more new notions. One of the leaders in good works, as well as in social life, has put on foot the idea of converting the beautiful church at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Clarendon st. into a Back Bay library and reading-room. It seems that the church is at once famous for its beauty and its worthlessness.



The acoustic properties were found so defective that as a church it had to be abandoned. The story goes that visitors, in its days of trial (it was trial literally), used to find the pulpit each Sabbath in a new position, where some one had thought the acoustic properties might be better shown. As the congregation dispersed, instead of the weather or the sermon, the standing inquiry was, "Could you hear *to-day*?" And so the church was finally closed. Coming into the hands of holders of the mortgage placed for building purposes, its fate seemed to be sealed, for an income must be derived from the land, and the church was valuable only for the pleasure it afforded outsiders, few of whom cared to pay any part of the interest or taxes for their privilege.

All regretted the possible pulling down of one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. Mrs. Hammond suggested the possibility of turning it into a library, and followed up her suggestion with an eloquent picture of the alcoves furnished so as to be a temptation to study, and filled with young and old who might otherwise be wasting their time—or worse. Those with whom she talked liked the plan better as they understood it better. The architect said the changes could be made for a few thousand dollars. Many ventured the opinion that if the necessary funds required to buy the building were divided into shares, after the manner of the Boston Athenæum, nearly every family on the Back Bay would take one or more, and thus meet all the bills at once. It was suggested that it be a Back Bay branch of the Athenæum, connected by telephone. A few suggested the Public Library as the proper parent. The desirability of a small, pleasant hall for local literary meetings, readings, etc., helped on the discussion, for such could be easily provided. The building could doubtless be purchased of the holders of the mortgage for a fraction of its cost. It stands in the very center of the wealthiest and most cultivated square mile of people in New England.

The plan, under its enthusiastic leader, ought to succeed, and we hope it may. Mrs. Hammond rightly says that if this beautiful building in the center of the Back Bay should be fitted up properly, it would afford the influence of a university at a trifle of the cost.

Tho the public library is not distant, it is wholly unsuited to this class of readers, who would certainly never frequent its crowded rooms.

We have made these notes of this new notion because it is interesting in itself, as showing the growth of the modern library idea, and because the plan may be suggestive to other cities.

MELVIL DUL.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### LIBRARY STATISTICS.

WORCESTER, MASS., February 29, 1880.

In the last report of the librarian of the Public School Library of Cleveland, Ohio, there is a table claiming to give the incomes of several libraries, from their annual reports, and the amounts spent for books. The library in Worcester is stated to have had an income of \$11,236.49, and to have spent for books \$1,452.52. These figures are taken from the nineteenth annual report of this library, but give only the amount of the city appropriation and the sum spent for books from that appropriation. On p. 21 and 22 of the report there is a table made out in the form recommended for use by the American Library Association, from which it appears that our income (exclusive of a special appropriation for changes in the library building) was for the year reported as \$13,630.43, and the expenditure for books, pamphlets, and periodicals, \$3,670.77. We spent, in addition to this sum, \$945.09 for binding.

The table given by the Cleveland library has been copied into the report of the Free Public Library of Watertown, in this state, just received, without verification of the statement regarding our library by reference to the report.

In the last report but one of another Western library, a table is given to show the "turnover" of the books of seventeen libraries. The whole number of volumes of this library is given, but no account is taken of the use of the reference department, by, say, 30,000 persons. This table, unless my memory deceives me, was also copied without change into the report of at least one other library.

If all libraries were to keep statistics in the form recommended by the Association, would not librarians become so accustomed to this form as to make few mistakes in quoting? If other forms are needed for local purposes, this one could be used in addition to the others. SAMUEL S. GREEN.

### TRACING RARE BOOKS SOLD AT AUCTION.

BALTIMORE, March 12, 1880.

It is a thing much to be desired that some record should be preserved and accessible to students, of the whereabouts of the books of the Brinley Library, after their dispersion. Could not a list be made out or printed in such form that it might be *bound with the Brinley catalogue*? in this or some better fashion, showing the purchasers:—"ASTOR LIBRARY, Nos. 1111, 1234, 5678,"—and so on. In this way the student of history would have a key to find rare Americana in a score of libraries, and it would make the Brinley catalogue a work of permanent use. W. HAND BROWNE.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.\*

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

## I. NOTICES.

NEW ENGLAND Journal of Education. (Index to vols. 9 and 10, 1879.)

So much has already appeared in the JOURNAL on the subject of indexes that it seems trite to again drag forward the oft-repeated errors. That the subject is not receiving elsewhere the attention it merits is sadly proved by the careless work sent out by the mass of periodicals.

From our leading educational journal we expect better things, and we hope it only requires attention called to a few facts in order to institute a much needed improvement.

We have heard of no system of cataloging or indexing which authorizes the entry of British noblemen under the word lord, and believe that Lord Dufferin would object to such desultory treatment. At first glance we should suppose the entries under poetry and book notices to be mere transcripts of titles, did not occasional spasmodic attempts at a subject form make only more prominent such absurdities as Lincoln, Luther, De Foe, De Quincey, &c., entered respectively under Abraham, Martin, Daniel, Thomas, and oh! shades of ancient Rome and Gaul! Cicero under M. and placed alphabetically as tho spelled Monsieur, tho Horace Mann, Bryant, Irving, Johnson and a few more entered properly reveal occasional gleams of sanity in the indexer.

Under education it would be natural to look for some of the leading articles that have appeared on this subject, but the entries here are paltry, and a very casual reading of the index reveals some forty titles ingeniously hidden away under such words as *Compulsory, England, Europe, German, Industrial, Labor, L', Mathematics, Non-sectarian, Physical, Scotland, Switzerland, Discipline, Girl's, Higher, Moral, Primary, Pyramidal, Women's, etc.*, without a cross-reference by way of guide-board. In the same way, articles on teaching are un-get-at-able without a careful reading of the entire index for the two volumes.

The writer must have had in mind a very subtle analysis of the difference between the rights of children, teachers and school committees, judging by the entries. For information on the Kinder-

garten we must find *After* and *Fonic* as well as *Kindergarten*, and if we wish to grow handsome, to magnetize, to read, or to teach arithmetic, we must guess *How*. Needle-work is under *Plain*, a poem on the brook under *To*, verses on the death of Bayard Taylor under *Tributes*, pronunciations of Latin under *Three*, various reviews on punctuation, teaching, pianoforte, etc., under such words as *System* and *Theory*; in short, what principle guided the author of this marvelous compend in choosing the initial word, is, as Dundreary says, "one of those things no feller can find out."

As the indexes of the two volumes are printed together, the inconvenience of separate alphabets might easily have been avoided by consecutive paging for the year, or by giving volume, colon, page, *e. g.* 10:19.

ANIDUL

## A. Library economy, history, and reports.

AULÉSTIA Y PIJOAN, Ant. De la importancia de los archivos, bibliotecas, y museos en Cataluña. (Pages 34-49 of the *Boletín del Ateneo Barcelonés*, Jul.-Sept., 1879.)

BEAUCHAMPS, J. de. Les grandes bibliothèques aux enchères; la vente Firmin-Didot. (In *Le livre*, Jan.) 6 p.

Le BIBLIOTECHE. (In *Il Buonarroti*, Feb. 1879.)

A CHILD'S library. (In *N. E. Journ. of educ.*, Mar. 19.) 1 col.

Commends new system of reading in schools, but adds: "Our own experience has convinced us that, for the average child, the element of possession of a book is of great importance. The borrowed book, however attractive, is never read with the loving enthusiasm with which the child devours the volume that is his own."

CRISTAL, M. Les bibliothèques populaires. (In *Le livre*, Jan.) 6 p.

[FOSTER, W. E.]. The weekly "reading-hour" in a Providence (R. I.) school, by a librarian. (In *N. E. Journ. of educ.*, Feb. 19.) 1¼ col.

Detailed account of the results shown in one such hour, to illustrate usefulness of the new relations between the library and the school.

GRASSAUER, Ferd. Die neue Universitäts-Bibliothek in Wien. (Pages 51-54 of *Neuer anzeiger*, Feb.)

Dr. Grassauer is opposed to the plan of building the new library in the form of an immense hall, capable of holding 300,000 v., and provided with seats for 520 readers, on account of the greater danger from fire, as compared with a series of small rooms, of the greater dustiness, the greater difficulty of cleaning, the loss of space for books, and the difficulty of studying in a crowd. A fire started in a single room may be extinguished within its limits; the different rooms give an opportunity of

\* Note.—The Bibliography in the last number having gone to press without the departmental editor's corrections on second revise, has the following errata: p. 51, COTGREAVE, Wednesday, should be Wednesday; p. 52, REUMONT, read Archivio stor., and after published add [Firenze, Cellini]; p. 53, WEYMOUTH, read Tufts; also K. SACHS. BERGAKADEMIE, *Friedberg*; BOOKS, insert History before the parenthesis; ROPARTZ, 5th line, read le comte.

dividing the readers according to the subjects they are studying, and making separate medical, legal, philological reading-rooms, each provided with its appropriate periodicals and books of reference, and with attendants familiar with that part of the library. The numerous walls offer more shelf-space. Dirt is more easily kept out and more easily put out. In regard to cleaning, he makes the singular statement that, as it is useless to dust the books within a large hall, because the dust set free in one part merely flies off to settle in another part, all the books must be taken out to be cleaned, which would require another hall capable of holding 300,000 volumes. I have got over this difficulty in an easier way. I had a high canvas covering made over a large tub, which was set upon a table, the whole looking somewhat like a shower-bath. Into this tent, the books are introduced through a slit, and the dust is wiped or beaten off. Instead of flying around the room, it settles in the water or on the wet canvas, which must be washed several times a day. This has proved much better than the ordinary method of dusting.

HINTS for home reading. (In *Christ. union.*) A picnic, by many contributors. Feb. 25. 3 col. How other people read, by three contributors. Mar. 3. 2½ col.

First gives "points" from numerous letters, systematically arranged, supplemented by some of the letters in full. Second includes three letters on "Books for use," "Shakespeare for children," "Reading and remembering."

L., R. The Vatican Library and Archives. (In *Athenaeum.*)

"Little or nothing remains to be discovered in the Vatican Library. I speak of first-rate discoveries. Marini, Mai, De Rossi, Corvisieri, the Germans of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, have explored every inlet of that ocean, and the results of their investigations are tolerably well known to the public. Single documents of great value may still be found, especially in miscellaneous MSS., but the bulk of the literary or scientific treasures of the Vatican Library are no more a mystery to those who have free access to it. The great drawback is that the number of those who have this free access is sadly small. The general public cannot consult any book or codex unless they state in their written demand to the librarian its number, its title, its author, etc. Such being the case, and the rule being strictly enforced, the library is of no use. How can any one ask for a book or MS., and know its number, its title, and its whereabouts, without a catalogue? . . . Leo XIII., whose boundless generosity, prudent firmness, and love for science cannot be praised enough, took the affair into consideration from the first day of his election to the pontifical chair. He began by reorganizing the staff of officials, the well-known *scriptores bibliothecae*; he secured the assistance of eminent scholars, sometimes in spite of their youth, thus breaking with senseless traditions; he improved the time-table for visitors, giving four hours in succession every day; and now he has won the applause of the scientific world by appointing a committee for the publication of catalogues. To make the state of things quite perfect, two more improvements are needed. The first is to provide

a better reading-room. The poor students are now obliged to sit and freeze in the vestibule, the only outlet for the daily tide of commonplace tourists. The noise sometimes is fearful—shutting of doors, ringing of keys, and loud conversation—while currents of chilly air carry away the papers. I need say nothing of the shabby writing accommodation. I suppose the inkstands date from Sixtus V., and the green cloth from some of his predecessors.

"The second improvement would be to diminish the number of holidays, which are perhaps four days out of every ten, taking the yearly average.

"As regards the archives and their wonders of wonders, every one is acquainted with the tremendous laws, political or religious, which prevented the profane from even looking at the threshold of their prison-house. The major excommunication was engraved on their triple iron door. The number of those to whom the archives have been opened during the present century does not exceed six or seven. No one expects, of course, that free access should be given to the archives at once. I am not aware of the existence of a catalogue, and, unless a catalogue is made or found, some restrictions must be enforced, unless unique and immensely valuable documents are to be handed over to the first comer. Leo XIII. has appointed a committee to provide for the immediate publication of such documents as may have a general interest from an historical or archaeological point of view. The same committee will decide *pro tempore* about the advisability of handing over unpublished documents to those who ask for them. A suitable set of rooms is provided for palaeographers or copyists. A scientific academy, called *Accademia di Conferenze Istorico-Giuridiche*, whose seat is in the Palazzo Spada, will superintend the official publications from the archives. What are known as the Vatican archives in general are but a portion of the inedited and unknown stock of documents preserved within the precincts of the Pope's palace. There are many such archives, not of the same importance, of course, but still such as would form the pride of any state library of Europe. They ought to be brought together, and the new liberal rules applied to every one of them."

LEEDS (*Eng.*) P. L. 9th an. rep. Leeds, Jan., 1880. 30 + [2] p. O.

Added Ref. L. 816 v., *Lending* 3,049; total Ref. 22,763, *Lending* 71,365; issues, Ref. 68,753, *Lending* (central library and 20 branches) 579,786; total of issues in all departments, 1870-79, 3,303,073; visits to reading-rooms, 4,579,284.

MALDEN (*Mass.*) P. L. An. rep. Boston, 1880. 15 p. O.

Library containing 3,600 v. opened Feb. 14, 1879. 1,100 copies of a finding-list "by Mr. A. G. Brown, who relied upon its sale and the profits of its advertising department for reimbursement," were sold before Sept. 1. "The Board does not regard the finding-list as the best form of a catalogue, except during the formative period. With a larger collection and more ample means, a better and more costly catalogue will become desirable." Mr. A. H. Bicknell has given \$200 "as the foundation of a catalogue fund." The trustees announce their intention of fostering good reading by a careful

selection of books, furnishing in fiction only its better specimens, books that "represent much of science and art or history and geography in a popular and entertaining dress," and books which are "the work of the higher imaginative writers of the English language."

The WOODWARD collection. (In *Argus*, Albany, Sept. 5.) 1½ col.

An account of the library of Royal Woodward, about 20,000 v. and unnumbered pamphlets.

Y. G. MEN'S ASSOC., *Buffalo*. 44th an. meeting; reports of committees. (In *Buffalo d. courier*, Feb. 24.)

Added, 3,310 v., 426 pm.; total, 36,754 v.; issues, 77,826, double that of 10 years ago, quadruple that of 20 years ago.

"The plan of annotated lists which Mr. Cutter, of the Boston Athenæum, originated some two years ago, was adopted. By a co-operative arrangement between the Athenæum, the public library of Worcester, Mass., and ourselves, these lists have, since that time, been made up in common by the three libraries, so far as practicable, using the same notes and the same type, to the extent that their purchases coincide. The lists are printed at the Athenæum, which employs its own compositors, and something is saved by the co-operation in money as well as labor. The notes are generally selected from the best reviews, and they certainly lend important aid to readers in their selection of books.

"A still better measure was adopted in August last, when two commodious stands were erected on each side of the delivery desk, for the open display of new books. All new or recent publications that come into the library are now kept upon these stands as long as practicable—usually two or three months—before being transferred to their permanent places on the shelves. The patrons of the library have free access to them; they are constantly undergoing examination, and find far more readers than formerly.

"The analysis of the fiction drawn in November shows some curious changes. Mrs. Southworth has been deposed from her place of honor at the head of the list, to give precedence to the anonymous author of 'Phyllis' and 'Molly Bawn.' She now stands 6th in the list. Mrs. Holmes still holds the second rank; Dickens has dropped from the 3d place to the 5th; Bulwer from the 6th to the 10th; Black from the 7th to the 29th; E. P. Roe from the 8th to the 31st; Mrs. Stowe from the 11th to the 15th. On the other hand, May Agnes Fleming has risen from 4th to 3d; Oliver Optic from the 10th place to the 4th; E. Marlitt from the 12th to the 7th; Julia P. Smith from the 15th to the 8th; Howells from nowhere last year to 9th rank now; Thackeray from the 19th to the 17th; Scott from the 32d to the 14th; Jules Verne from the 39th to the 18th—and so on. I find, however, that the mere position of books on the shelves influences the use of them very considerably in the novel department. The fact that Mrs. Southworth's works, in the shifting of the library, found lodgment on the topmost shelves of one case and the bottom shelf of another, has had a good deal to do,

no doubt, with her loss of honor. But the lead taken by the author of 'Phyllis' over all competitors is quite remarkable, in view of the fact that her works are only three in number. Those three works were drawn from the library 160 times in November, showing more than 50 readers for each one that month.

"The 'Query hook' has been continued, and often proves to be the means of procuring quite important information. There is a strong tendency, however, among the young frequenters of the library, to use it facetiously or trivially."

The report closes with a table showing (1) the no. of vols. in 10 libraries, (2) their circulation, (3) their percentage of expense for salaries, (4) their percentage for books:

|                                    |         |           |     |     |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----|-----|
| N. Y. Merc. Lib., 1878,            | 178,167 | 177,936   | .36 | .31 |
| Phila. Merc. Lib., 1878,           | 136,358 | 186,834   | .34 | .23 |
| Brooklyn Merc. Lib., 1876,         | 42,473  | 123,880   | .57 | .16 |
| San Francisco Merc. Lib., 1878,    | 46,708  | 84,987    | .39 | .16 |
| Boston Pub. Lib., 1879,            | 360,963 | 1,180,563 | .55 | .30 |
| Chicago Pub. Lib., 1879,           | 60,423  | 368,428   | .48 | .10 |
| St. Louis Pub. School Lib., 1879,  | 44,034  | 100,812   | .45 | .21 |
| Worcester, Mass., Free Lib., 1878, | 45,155  | 132,384   | .46 | .34 |
| Providence Athenæum, 1879,         |         | 23,148    | .61 | .15 |
| Buffalo Young Men's Lib., 1879,    | 36,754  | 77,826    | .31 | .38 |

#### B. Catalogs.

BIBLIOTECA NAZ. LE MONNIER. Catalogo; del conte Camillo Raineri Biscia. Livorno, tipog. de F. Vigo, 1880. 10 + 412 p. 8". Portraits. (500 copies.) 5 lire.

LEXINGTON (Mass.) CARY LIB. Catalogue. Arlington, C: S. Parker, printer, 1880. 113 p. D.

In 13 cl. arranged alphabetically, with alf. sub-arrangement by titles.

MALDEN (Mass.) P. L. Finding-lists, 1st supp. Boston, 1880. 30 p. O.

PETZOLDT, J. Zur Litteratur des deutsch-französischen Krieges 1870-71; Probe a. dem Kataloge d. Kriegsbibliothek Königs Albert v. Sachsen. (In *Neuer anzeiger*, Feb. 1880.)

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Catalogue of the Library; [compiled by B. R. Wheatley]. London, the Society, 1879. 3 v. 8".

"The catalogue of a well-selected library of over 31,000 volumes. Vol. 3 consists entirely of an elaborate index of subjects forming a useful manual of medical and surgical bibliography."

U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY, Wash. Catalogue of the library. Part 1: Astronomical bibliography, by E. S. Holden. Wash., 1879. 10 p. O.

Includes a list of all the indexes to scientific periodicals relating to astronomy, geodesy, optics, and mathematics in the library.



c. *Bibliography.*

BOOKS for the family. (In *Chris. union.*) Art., Mar. 17, 2¼ col. Books of reference, Mar. 3, 2¼ col. Poetry, Mar. 10, 4¼ col.

CATALOGUE raisonné des ouvrages pouvant servir à fonder une bibliothèque spirite. Paris, libraire spirite, 1880. 68 p. 18°.

DOUEN, O. Bibliographie française du psautier. (Pages 503-631 of v. 2 of his *Clément Marot*, Paris, 1878-79, 2 v., O.)

DRUJON, F. Le bibliographie en Angleterre. (In *Le livre*, Jan.) 7 p.

HAUPT, H., Jr. List of periodical engineering literature in English. Phil., 1879. 91 p. O.

About 500 titles, given with fullness; many useful details of publication noted. Editor calls for additional information to be used in an appendix.

HORTIS, Attilio. Bibliografia delle ed. (In his *Studi sulle opere latine del Boccaccio*, Trieste, Dase, 1879, 4°, 20 + 956 p., 32 m.)

LEO, Willibald. [LEINBURG, Wil. Leo. von?] Die gesammte Literatur Walther's von der Vogelweide. Wien, Gottlieb, 1880. 11 + 99 p. 8°. 2 m.

Classified. 166 nos. or more.

Le LIVRE; revue mensuelle. Pt. 1: Jan. Paris, A. Quantin, 1880. 2 + 48 + 88 + 24 p. Q.

"The number is divided into 3 parts, paged separately, printed on different paper, and with independent title-pages, so that the entire volume would constitute three distinct series. The first, consisting of forty-eight pages, and bearing the title "Bibliographie ancienne," is devoted to antiquarian literature, or, more properly speaking, old books; and in this section all the purely technical matter is comprised. . . . The second section is more popular, and embraces literary criticism. A complete series of articles on the contemporary literature of every part of the world, constitutes its principal feature. . . . The third portion is a *catalogue raisonné* of all publications of the preceding month, and containing excerpts from publishers' lists and special announcements."—*Athenaeum*, Jan. 24, 1880.

MOURAVIT, Gustave. Poètes et bibliophiles, les devises des vieux poètes; étude lit. et bibliog. Paris, Morgand et Fatout, 1879. 47 p. 4°. (150 cop.)

Two volumes of the BIBLIOGRAFIA ROMANA, published under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture at Rome, are now ready. This important bibliographical work will be composed of six volumes, and will be issued only as a complete set.—*Athenaeum*.

The GOETHE-VEREIN of Vienna is to publish a yearly bibliografico-critical report of publications relating to Goethe.

J. C. HOUZEAU and A. Lancaster are about to publish in parts, at Brussels, a "Bibliographie générale de l'astronomie ou Catalogue méthodique des ouvrages, des mémoires et des observations astronomiques publiés depuis l'origine de l'imprimerie jusqu'en 1880," which will undoubtedly be a work of the very greatest utility, both to persons interested in the history of astronomy and to practical astronomers.

D. *Indexes.*

COX, R. L. Architectural illustrations and their classification (In *The architect*, Jan. 10.) 2¼ p.

More than half the paper is devoted to general remarks on cataloging and indexing.

U. S. 45TH CONG., 2D SESS. HO. OF REFS. *Com. on Rules.* Report on the general index of the journals of Congress. Wash., 1879. 40 p. Q. (Report 52.)

Includes a long and valuable letter, written March 25, 1878, by Alfred Ordway, to the committee, pointing out the need of an index, the utter insufficiency of the present indexes, and the best way of preparing one. The full discussion of the subject makes this a valuable document for all persons interested in the preparation of indexes. Pages 15-40 are devoted to a "specimen of the general index of the journals of Congress being prepared by Alfred Ordway."

The JOURNAL of science (monthly) is to contain hereafter a subject-index to the leading English and foreign scientific journals, with a separate paging.

## PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAS. L. WHITNEY.

## PSEUDONYMS.

A. R. A.—"A rollicking tour in Ireland. By Rag, Tag, and Bobtail, with free and easy sketches. By A. R. A," and "A rollicking tour in the land of the Gael." Both these works, published at Paisley in 1878, were written by James Cameron Lees, D.D., minister of the High Kirk, Edinburgh.

J. T. C.

Alex.—"As she would have it" (Phila., 1873, J. B. Lippincott). Eliza A. White.

M. E. B.—Mary E. Gellie, author of "The new girl; or, the rivals: a tale of school life" (N. Y., Pott, Young and Co., 1879).

Crispinus.—The poems of John Marston have recently been sumptuously reprinted in an edition of fifty-one copies. Ben Jonson satirizes this poet in his "Poetaster," under the name of Crispinus.



*Launcelot Crosse*.—The author of "Characteristics of Leigh Hunt" (London, 1878), "Brandon tower" (London, 1876), and of other books and periodical articles published over the above pseudonym, is M. Frank Carr, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*Louis Levster*.—M. Louis-Adolphe Spach, archiviste du Departement du Bas-Rhin, who has in some of his books used the above pseudonym, died October 17. He has written many works, mostly relating to the history of Alsace.—*Polybiblion*.

*Marie*.—Author of "Beside the Western sea: poem" (3d ed. N. Y., O'Shea, 1878). Harriet M. Skidmore.

*Florence McComb*.—"The Montargès legacy" (Phila., P. F. Cunningham and son, 1875). Mary M. Meline.

*Obadiah Oldpath*.—"Lift; or the jewels of the third plantation" (2d ed., enlarged. Boston, Colesworthy, 1880). The first ed., in 1862, was published under the above pseudonym. It is a description of early times in Lynn, Massachusetts.

*Philo-Spinoza Africanus*.—The publisher of *The African* (an anti-slavery publication, No. 1, Boston, Nov. 9, 1839) signs himself as above. What is his real name?

*M. S.*—"The story of Queen Isabel, and other verses. By M. S." (London, Bell and Daldy, 1863). The author is Menella Bute Smedley, author also of "Lays and ballads from English history."

*Rambler*.—"Persis; a tale of the White Mountains" (N. Y., Authors' publishing co., 1879). George H. Fullerton.

*Gamaliel Smith*.—Mr. Garnett, of the British Museum, states in the *Athenæum* that the work published in 1823 under the above pseudonym, and entitled "Not Paul, but Jesus," which has been attributed to Jeremy Bentham, was compiled at Bentham's request by Francis Place. The style of the greater portion is Bentham's.

*Faith Templeton*.—"Wrecked, but not lost" (Phila., Lippincott, 1880). Harriet Boomer Barber.

#### ANONYMS.

*Business, by a Merchant* (Edinb., Edmonston, 1873). Frank Carr, of Newcastle.

J. T. C.

*Craigclutha, a tale of Old Glasgow* (Glasgow, 1878). George Mills.

J. T. C.

*A fool's errand* (N. Y., Fords, Howard and Hulbert, 1879). The author is Albion W. Tourgee.—*Washington Letter to Indianapolis Journal*.

*Golden-rod. An idyl of Mount Desert* (N. Y., Harper, 1880). Constance Cary Harrison.

*The harbour bar. A tale of Scottish life* (2 v. Lond., 1874, Macmillan). Mrs. Prestwich.

J. T. C.

*His majesty, myself* (Boston, Roberts, 1879). The author is said to be Rev. William M. Baker.

*The infallibility of the Pope* (Lond., Washbourne, 1873), and *The Oxford undergraduate of twenty years ago. By a Bachelor of Arts* (Lond., Washbourne, 1874).—*The Old Catholics at Cologne and the Comedy of Convocation*. The author of these is A. J. P. Marshall.

J. T. C.

*A lost battle*.—(Novel. Edinb., 1878.) Miss Price.

J. T. C.

*Memorial of Eliza Butler Thompson. By her daughter* (N. Y., Randolph, 1879). Elizabeth T. Spring.

*Poetry for Children* (N. Y., Dutton, 1879). Mrs. C. A. Clapp.

*The Red Barn: a tale of truth* (8°, Lond., 1828, Knight and Lacy). This story was written by Dr. William Maginn, and is founded upon the murder of Maria Marten by William Corder. It was published in parts and had a great success. I cannot find it in any book-list, nor does it appear in the catalogue of the British Museum. The wrapper of part 1 is lettered "Subscription copy." See Hindley's "Life of Catnach," 1878, pp. 189-90. CHARLES WELCH, Guildhall Library, London.

*St. Matthew's gospel*, with parallel passages in the other Evangelists (Edinb., Nimmo, 1878). James Stark, F. R. S. E.

J. T. C.

*The secret of long life* (London, H. S. King & Co., 1871). Mortimer Collins.

*The value of life*.—The author of this reply to Mallock's "Is life worth living?" is said to be Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, of New York.

*Vulgarisms and other errors of speech* (2d ed., Phila., 1869). Richard Mead Bache.

#### NOTES.

The translator, from the French of the Comte C. de Bruc, of "The republic of San Marino" (Cambridge, privately printed, Riverside press, 1880) is William W. Tucker, of Boston.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DUL.

*To save space, the question which almost invariably gives rise to the note is omitted. The editor is glad to receive and give attention to queries from any sources. Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthlessness as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.*

**BLACK-FACE TYPE.**—Mr. Foster, at Providence, has improved his paper covers very much by bringing out the most significant words in each rule, about length of time to be kept, fines, renewals, etc., as printed on the side of the covers. A clarendon or full-face type makes the points very definite, and, if not too heavy, does not injure the looks.

**CONTINUOUS PAGING.**—On p. 13, v. 4, the Coöperation Committee recommended paging preface, book, and appendix continuously to avoid the confusion in index and all other references. It noted that the preface, if printed after the book, might be paged separately. I should much prefer to omit sufficient pages for preface, leaving a gap if it fell short. No confusion could then arise, as is so likely if there are two pages of the same number. The signature, the looks of the book, or, if necessary, a note at the end of the preface, when printed, would show that nothing was missing. The best rule is, as usual, the simplest; beginning with the first page that has a word printed on it, if only the bastard title, call it one, and then page continuously through to the back cover, appendix and all.

**JUDICIOUS STEALING.**—Few libraries do as much of this as they ought. It reverses the famous "Who steals my purse," etc., for it does enrich the borrower and does not make the owner poorer. Quite a large number have learned to avail themselves of such helps as the Boston Public Library hand-book for readers, Mr. Cutter's bulletins, Mr. Winsor's and the Boston bulletins, with their special features at the end of each number, as well as notes scattered thru Mr. Vickers' admirable class-lists, the Quincy catalog and supplement, etc. I wrote "etc., etc.," but struck out one etc., for there is not enough of this best work yet to justify two. A great portion of the work done for these various publications is just as good for the other libraries as for the one that had all the labor and expense, and I believe there is not one of those named that would not feel gratified, rather than annoyed, at the largest possible use of their material. To-day it is only possible to reprint, or get a few extra copies, except with Mr. Cutter's bulletin.

**LITHOGRAM PRICES.**—Mr. Foster's article in last JOURNAL quotes prices on the lithogram for

this work. These prices were when a patent was claimed on the lithogram; but now that this claim proves to be unfounded, a better article is furnished by the Supply Department for less than half the price. The \$7.00 size can be had for \$2.25. The old prices are still charged by some dealers, and librarians should beware of paying more than \$2.25 for the best thick pad, in japanned metal cases.

Nothing can be more useful in a library, and at the reduced price its cost is no objection.

**A NEW INDICATOR.**—Mr. Parr, of the London Institution, has devised an ingenious method of keeping an account of books issued from the library, and of the names of the borrowers, by means of card entries. The method enables a librarian to ascertain in a brief space of time two important facts: namely, what reader has a given book, and what books have been borrowed by a given reader. By the use of colored cards, which are cut with a horn or shoulder projecting from the upper edge and inclining some to the right and some to the left, various nice and useful distinctions in the character of the books lent out are indicated, and the work of reference is greatly abridged.—*Athenæum*.

[This is evidently an application of the new system proposed by the editor on p. 370, v. 3, in the article "Delinquent notices of Check Boxes." Boxes, slips, etc., were made on that system, and have been adopted to a limited extent. Will those who have tried it kindly report through the JOURNAL as to its workings.—M. D.]

**PECULIAR LIBRARIES.**—Thackeray's funny statement has often been repeated, about one of his characters, that the library of the personage in question "consisted chiefly of old boots." This may be called describing a library "to a *l*." But there is a parallel case, somewhat older, referred to in history, of a certain bishop of Hildesheim, in the rugged times of the fourteenth century. In the end of that century, this bishop, being newly appointed, upon taking possession of his episcopal residence, ordered that the library should be shown him. He was hereupon conducted to an excellently stocked arsenal, full of all manner of arms and armor in good repair and ready for instant service. "This is it," the worthy father in God was informed; "these are the books that your predecessors have used, and that you must use, too, if you would save your diocese from the usurpations of your neighbors." And truly, it will hardly be denied that in the state of things that then prevailed, these must have been the good bishop's "best documents." F. B. P.

## GENERAL NOTES.

## UNITED STATES.

**NECROLOGY.**—Mrs. Cornelia Olmstead, of the Wadsworth Library, Geneseo, N. Y., died of pneumonia on Wednesday, February 11, aged 48. Mrs. Olmstead was an enthusiast among librarians and was personally known to many members of the A. L. A., having been present at all the conferences except New York, where she arrived only in time to sail with the delegates to the London meeting. This is the first break in that charmed and fortunate party of nineteen, and will bring the first shadow of regret on their happy memories.

For nearly twelve years Mrs. Olmstead has been the faithful Superintendent of the Wadsworth Library, doing much for its interests and endearing herself personally to all with whom she came in contact. In spite of impaired health for a year past, her enthusiasm kept her at her post. Her loss will be deeply felt in the library as well as the home circle.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.**—Mr. Spofford's annual report shows 21,367 v. (including copyright duplicates) and 12,050 pam. accessions during 1879, bringing the total to 374,022 v., besides about 120,000 pam. Of this, the law department numbers 46,823 v. The copyright entries included 6,580 books, 3,608 periodicals, and other classes aggregating 18,125, and returning fees amounting to \$14,689.90. Nothing remains to be done, in the overcrowded condition of the library, but to pile accessions in constantly increasing heaps on the floor. The shelf-accommodations, for 280,000 v., and all temporary means of shelving, as wooden cases, were long since exhausted, and Mr. Spofford, after eight years' iteration of the claims of the library, confines the statement of the case, it may be said, to a cry of despair.

**PHILADELPHIA LIBRARY CO.**—In connection with the removal (see Mr. Smith's article elsewhere), the *Philadelphia Times*, of Feb. 27th, said:

"The old library building at Fifth and Library streets to-day is empty. Hereafter inquirers for the library 'founded by Benjamin Franklin' will be directed to Locust and Juniper streets. The new building there will be open to the public on Tuesday. To-day the last volume and the last stick of furniture are being removed out of the old building, and for the first time since Washington sat in the Presidential chair in Philadelphia, and the old Congress held its sessions in Independence Hall, the shelves of this venerable structure will be vacant. No building in this city, Independence Hall and Carpenter Hall excepted, perhaps, is richer in historical

associations. It was ninety-one years ago when the Philadelphia Library Company first took possession of what was then one of the finest library buildings in America. On the 31st of August, 1789, the first foundation stone was laid. At that date the library company itself had been in existence for sixty years, having been organized in 1731. They had occupied various quarters before acquiring sufficient capital to purchase the lot and erect the then new building at Fifth and Library streets. The taking possession of this building was a memorable event in its history, as had also been the laying of the corner stone of its foundation some time previous. This was attended with great interest and ceremony."

**N. Y. CIRC. LIB. ASSOC.**—Articles of incorporation of this Assoc. have been filed with the Secretary of State of New York. Its ultimate purpose is the establishment of library accommodations in various parts of the city where they are needed, and it is the outgrowth of a free circulating library which was opened with 1,100 books March 1, 1879, at No. 127 East Thirteenth st., by twelve well-known ladies. This library has been much used, and but three books have been lost during the year. The library was recently moved to No. 36 Bond st., and with the originators of the library as a nucleus this corporation has been formed. Among the trustees of the corporation are Joseph H. Choate, Robert Hoe, jr., Levi P. Morton, Philip Schuyler, F. W. Stevens, B. H. Field, W. W. Appleton and Abram S. Hewitt. The plan is to have one large library and reading-rooms in some central locality, and local distributing rooms wherever there is a demand for them.

**WEST BROOKFIELD (Mass.).**—Charles Merriam, of Springfield, who has been a constant benefactor of the public library, has written an interesting communication to the town, which will be presented to the town meeting. He refers to the new library building which he proposes to present to the town, and says that he thinks it advisable to have the town own it as soon as it is finished in the fall, and he therefore formally tenders it now. He reserves the right to go on and finish the building according to his plans, and imposes the condition that the town shall maintain it perpetually as a public library, absolutely free to all citizens of the town, shall keep it in repair, and shall keep it insured and rebuild it if it should be destroyed. He does not forbid a change of site if in the course of time one should become desirable. These are the only formal restrictions, but he recommends besides that the hall be only rarely used for religious meetings, and never for political meetings or for balls, theatrical entertainments or

minstrel performances, but only for such purposes as will be unobjectionable to any, such as lectures, scientific exhibitions and the like. Mr. Merriam will have spent nearly \$20,000 for the library when the building is ready for use. The contractors have begun getting the lumber on the ground, and work will begin as soon as the season permits.—*Springfield Republican*.

**EASTHAMPTON (Mass.).**—In addition to the \$14,000 given by Mrs. Williston for the new library building, Mrs. E. H. Sawyer gives \$4,000 and Dr. S. T. Seelye \$1,000, making \$19,000 in all. Of this \$2,000 has been expended for the lot, leaving \$17,000 available for a building fund. Half-a-dozen plans are before the library committee. One provides for a two-story building with wings for the museum, reading-room, etc., the library proper being the section of a circle, so placed that it can be entirely shut off from the rest of the building, and made practically fire-proof. There would be room, with additional shelves, for 21,000 volumes.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD (Mass.).**—The citizens of this town have nearly completed their arrangements for starting a public library. They are led in this movement by T. C. Bates, Esq., one of the ablest and most enterprising of the young men of the town, and a successful manufacturer in Worcester, and have been assisted in the selection of books by Mr. Green, of the Free Public Library in Worcester.

North Brookfield is a thrifty town in Worcester County, connected by a branch railroad, recently constructed, with the Boston and Albany Railroad, and contains what is said to be the largest shoe-shop in the world. There has been a free reading-room in North Brookfield for some time.

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIB.**—This library will be removed, about June 1, to the school building on Snow st., in which it will occupy the whole of the lower floor. The change has been necessitated by the growth of the library, but still more by the increase in readers, 2,988 new readers having been registered during the past year. The location is just off the thoroughfare of Westminster st. The new quarters will double the space at command of the library, and furnish the ample reading-room which is especially needed.

**NORTHAMPTON (Mass.).**—The library committee report that the people are gradually losing interest in the library, as the number of volumes used is growing less yearly, and they give as a reason that new and popular works are not added often enough. They therefore ask \$500 for that purpose. Books drawn,

38,711; accessions, 385. They also recommend the purchase of additional books of reference, and a total appropriation of \$3,100 is asked for.

**AMHERST (Mass.).**—The managers of the public library report to the town that 400 new books have been added during the year, making a total now on the catalogue of 2,261. The receipts for the library from all sources during the year have been \$896, and the expenses \$859, leaving a balance on hand of \$37. The North Amherst library reports its receipts \$182, expenses \$181.

**SOUTHAMPTON (Mass.).**—The new public library was opened Feb. 21, with a partial and preliminary collection of some 500 v., all first-class books. In the course of the summer it is expected to open the finished library with more than 800 v., a well-furnished and convenient library-room, and a full and carefully prepared catalogue,—all provided with a money outlay of less than \$350.

**SPENCER (Mass.).**—The public library reports 3116 v., an addition of 425 during the year. The trustees advise opening the library every afternoon and evening except Sunday, the expense being but little more than opening twice a week, as at present.

A new public library and reading-room has been opened at Valley Falls, R. I.

**AUSTIN (Minn.)** has the "Floral Club Library," an incorporated association of ladies.

**EX-GOV. COBURN** has given \$250 to the library of the Agricultural College at Orono, Maine.

A PUBLIC LIBRARY has recently been organized at Frankfort, Ind., under the State school law.

**THE ATHOL (Mass.)** Library Association has been running a year, and has already 1000 books.

THE Nebraska State Library is under the control of the Judges of the Supreme Court as its board of control.

**THE CHARLTON (Mass.)** Association are to have a liberal present of funds if they raise a like amount themselves.

**THE WARREN (R. I.)** Pub. Lib. has put at interest a legacy of \$1,000 received last year, reserving it as the nucleus of a building fund.

THE San Francisco Public Library has adopted the electric light for the benefit of the several hundred readers who frequent its rooms at evening.

**THE LIBRARIAN** of the Walpole (Mass.) Public Library (Fannie L. Hartshorn) is about to make a new catalogue. She reports 18,711 circulation, with 2,300 v. in library.



A FRIEND of the Vergennes (Vt.) Public Library has recently given \$50 to the fund for the purchase of books. This is the first cash gift made since the organization of the library, although liberal gifts of books, periodicals and paper have been made.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—We acknowledge with gratitude another boon which has been conferred by the trustees on the reading world. For some time, readers unable to attend at the Museum during the day have been permitted to leave, after four o'clock, the tickets of the book they wanted to consult, and to return on the following day with the knowledge that the volume would be ready for their use. This practice has now been legalized, and special tickets of a distinctive color have been provided for the use of gentlemen desirous of availing themselves of the treasures of the Museum in this novel fashion. The alteration will also have the effect of spreading over the whole of the day the work of the attendants engaged in fetching volumes from the interior of the building. It only remains now for the frequenters of the Museum to express, in a practical manner, their appreciation of these gratifying changes in its workings.—*Athenæum*.

MITCHELL LIBRARY (*Glasgow*).—The total number of volumes issued for the four weeks ending 21st February was 39,200, the daily average being 1,633, as against 1,405 for the same period in 1879. The daily average for the previous five weeks was 1,508, the number of volumes issued to ladies during the four weeks was 86, and the total number of volumes issued from the commencement was 665,322. The salary of Mr. F. T. Barrett, the librarian, has been increased from £300 to £350, and the assistants have had their salaries increased by sums of £10 and £5 each. A silhouette portrait of the late Mr. Stephen Mitchell (the founder of the Library) has been discovered, and steps are being taken with the view of ascertaining whether a bust could be satisfactorily executed from it, to be placed in the Mitchell Library.

BODLEIAN LIBRARY.—New rules at the Bodleian Library require that no manuscript shall be copied without permission of the librarian, and that, if a copy has been made, no publication of it shall take place except after a like permission. Protests against these rules have already begun. "The poor Bodleian," says one petitioner, "which for 300 years has been a model of liberality and generosity, is suddenly placed below the Vatican Library in illiberality and dog-in-the-manger-ness."

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE, of New York, has offered £5,000 for the establishment of a free library at Dunfermline, his native place.

AN important addition to the reference library at Leeds, consists of a most valuable and rare collection of standard works of natural history, containing over 700 v. The total number of v. in the libraries is 94,128.

#### FRANCE.

NATIONAL LIBRARY.—The Government has agreed to a suggestion of M. Lockroy for the isolation of the Bibliothèque Nationale to avoid the risk of fire, and the Chambers will be asked for 3,700,000 francs for that purpose. The additions made yearly now amount to about 45,300 separate articles, of which about 5,100 are serials.

PARIS.—The number of municipal libraries in Paris is now 18, with 32,237 v., and 57,840 readers. The issues are, Literature, 29,089; Geography and Travels, 10,647; Sciences and Arts, 10,130; History, 7,836.

The second arrondissement has made the experiment of lending music for home use. Some 300 pieces were taken in 1879.

#### GERMANY.

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.—A well-known American gentleman, now pursuing some special studies at the University of Leipzig, writes as follows: The University library here is managed with a German stupidity that I never saw equalled in any small town library in America. It has no card catalog, or any other, accessible to students, so that you cannot have the least clue to what it has or what it has not. The result is that I have not yet found anything that was not "out," "not yet bound," "not yet arrived," or "does not exist" (applied to a well-known treatise).

#### ITALY.

THE Italian Minister of Agriculture and Commerce has nominated a Commission to compile a classified bibliography of all authors who were born or lived in the city of Rome from the eleventh century to the present time.

*L'Opinione* says that the evil eye seems to have been cast over the Roman libraries. The important collection of the Alessandrina has been closed on account of the unsatisfactory state of the building. This has caused much inconvenience to the University of Rome.

#### TURKEY.

THE sons of the late Dr. Mordtmann have presented their father's mss. to the Armenian Library of Constantinople, and the gift has been accepted by the Patriarch with a public expression of thanks.



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**BRITISH MUSEUM.** Librorum Impressorum qui in Museo Britannico Adservantur Catalogus. 16 vols., hf. parch., as follows: 7 vols. in 8, 8vo, A to Z, 1813-19; vols. 8 to 16, large 8vo. London, 1818. \$40.00.

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